

June 10, 2009

Duane Goossen  
Chairman  
Kansas State Health Care Commission  
Curtis State Office Building  
Topeka, KS 66612

Dear Mr. Goossen:

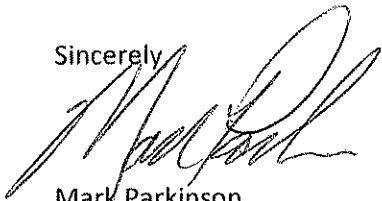
I would like to bring to your attention two recommendations regarding the state employee health plan and ask the Kansas State Health Care Commission to give favorable consideration to both.

Currently, new state employees must wait 60 days before they are eligible for the state employee health plan. Because health care costs are a tremendous burden on these employees and their families, I encourage the Commission to consider lowering the waiting period to 30 days, beginning in Fiscal Year 2010. Lowering the waiting period for inclusion in the state health plan, will help new state employees gain access to health care quicker.

Additionally, this year the Kansas Legislature took a positive step forward by adjusting HealthWave eligibility from 200% of the poverty level to 250%. As you know, State employee families are not eligible to participate in this program no matter how low their family income, and instead are eligible to participate in the HealthyKIDS program. I recommend the Commission follow the Legislature's lead and consider raising the eligibility of HealthyKIDS to 250% of poverty level to correspond with the change in eligibility for HealthWave. The cost of raising eligibility could adequately be covered from balances of the health plan fund.

State workers and their families are not immune to the financial struggles facing many Kansans. Given our economic condition, now more than ever we are asking our state employees to do more with less. By taking these modest steps, we can help our state workers and show the state truly appreciates the work they do every day to make our state a better place to live, work and raise a family.

Sincerely,



Mark Parkinson  
Governor of the State of Kansas